



East Westin meets West Westin in Aruba

Some island visitors may have taken notice of the many young Dutch people working on the island, usually in the tourist industry, because they are part of an educational program with Holland where they are sent out internationally to do an internship in their field of study. The Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa, that carried the Wyndham name until recently. It was purchased earlier this year by the Starwood Hotels and Resorts chain, and after renovations will bear the Westin name.

Working at the resort is a lovely young intern (called stages – STA-gess) from Holland named Hannelore van den Bosch. She attended the International Hotel School in Breda, Holland, along with her boyfriend, Pepijn van Munster. Hannalore had arranged to do her internship at the Wyndham in Aruba, and Pepijn had been accepted as an intern at the Westin Resort in Shanghai, China, a long ways away from his ladylove, which would keep them apart for a year.

Pepijn is a devoted boyfriend, decided that instead of returning home to Holland for his two weeks of vacation, he would travel the 14,988 kilometers (9313 miles, as the crow flies, or the internet distance calculator states) to be by Hannelore's side. Such devotion by a fellow Westin employee was not lost on the management of the hotel in Aruba, which arranged a treat for the young interns, the ultimate romantic dinner at the Azull restaurant on the beach of the resort. Toes in the sand, and reunited once more, Pepijn and Hannalore clinked champagne glasses and watched the sunset before indulging in a fabulous dinner. As the resort's Sales and Marketing Manager Pat Donovan describes it-, "East Westin meets West Westin in Aruba!"